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STATIC AND DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF NONCIRCULAR CYLINDRICAL SHELLS

by

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February 1977

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During the past contract, emphasis has been placed upon problems concerned with the buckling, postbuckling, and vibrations of rings and cylindrical shells of variable curvature. Some work was also performed on reinforced spherical and noncircular cylindrical shells. The list of references at the end of this report represents reports, publications, talks, and theses prepared during the course of the contract period.

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Introduction

This report on the past contract period (January 1974 through December 1976) presents but a small part of the overall research effort carried out under the sponsorship of the Air Force covering a period of almost twenty years. A complete listing of the related reports and publications can be found in an appendix to the present report.

During the past contract, emphasis has been placed upon problems concerned with the buckling, postbuckling, and vibrations of rings and cylindrical shells of variable curvature. Some work was also performed on reinforced spherical and noncircular cylindrical shells. The list of references at the end of this report represents reports, publications, talks, and theses prepared during the course of the contract period. The writer would like to take this opportunity to thank those authors whose names appear on this list, particularly, Dr. Y. N. Chen as well as Professor B. Erickson, for their invaluable contributions to the work performed. He would also like to acknowledge the financial assistance provided by the AFOSR throughout the course of the studies summarized herein.

Buckling and Postbuckling of Oval Cylindrical Shells (1, 8, 10)*:

Buckling and initial postbuckling of an oval cylindrical shell under pure bending and under combined uniform axial compression and bending was investigated in order to ascertain the behavior of such a shell under combined loads (1). The first and second order stability equations were developed from the Donnell-type equations, which were shown to be appropriate. The solution of these two sets of equations were used to determine, respectively, the buckling characteristics and a "sensitivity parameter". The buckling loads were found to be in good agreement with the engineering approximation based upon the assumption that buckling occurs when the local axial stress equals that corresponding to the classical buckling stress of a locally equivalent circular cylindrical shell under uniform axial compression. Results also showed that an oval cylinder can be stronger or weaker than the equivalent circular cylinder depending upon the orientation of the couples. However, in any case the oval shell was found to be quite sensitive to imperfections; the greater the load carrying capacity, the greater the sensitivity. Furthermore, in contrast to the behavior of the circular and weak oval cylinders, it was found that buckling of the strong oval cylinder need not initiate at the position of maximum compressive stress.

This research was also extended to bifurcation type of buckling analysis of oval cylinders under the combined action of uniform compressive end thrust and terminal bending couples with arbitrary orientation (8). In this work the classical stability problem was formulated and solved. Computation of the critical interacting loads was performed for a series of orientation angles β; viz., $\beta = 0^{\circ}$, 2°, 10°, 15°, 30°, 45°, and 90°, where β represents the angle the bending moment vector makes with the minor axis of the oval cross section. All calculations cover the entire range of the oval eccentricity parameter, which corresponds to the major-minor axes ratio in the range of 1.0 to 2.06. Both symmetric and antisymmetric modes of deformation were needed, and they were taken into account. Weak coupling between the two types of modes was found to exist. The numerical results obtained were analyzed and, as expected, the orientation angle β was found to have an important influence on the buckling loads, inasmuch as $\beta = 0^{\circ}$ corresponds to the strong bending mode, while $\beta = 90^{\circ}$ corresponds to the weak mode. Moreover, it was

* Numbers in brackets refer to listings under the section in Reports and Publications.

shown that an interpretation of the results can be viewed in the light of a practical engineering point of view. Essentially, the total axial compressive stress of an oval shell, at the point where buckles initiate, is found to be close to that of the linear buckling stress of an axially compressed circular cylinder whose thickness-to-radius ratio equals the corresponding local value at the buckling points of the oval. Such a simple engineering model for the estimation of the characteristic parameters, which was found applicable to simpler loading conditions in earlier studies in this program, once again proved to be justifiable in the general case of oval shells subjected to nonsymmetric, nonuniform loading.

Reinforced Spherical and Oval Shells (2, 3):

In the spherical shell investigation, studies of the state of stress in a shallow spherical shell containing an asymmetrically located stiffened circular hole subjected to an arbitrarily located concentrated load were performed with two aspects in mind (2, 3). The first was the investigation of the effect of a stiffening ring on the stresses in the vicinity of the hole when the shell is undergoing severe deformation due to an eccentrically applied concentrated load. In the second, the interaction of the hole with the outer boundary was studied for cases where the hole is located near the outer edge. For this case, the hole is placed close enough to the outer edge so that the perturbed stress field due to the hole is not fully decayed before it reaches the outer boundary. Consequently, there is an interaction between the two boundaries. In treating this problem, the boundary conditions were satisfied exactly at the hole boundary while the outer edge conditions were satisfied using the least square point matching method. Numerical results were presented and showed the effect of varying the ring stiffness parameters, load location, and hole location.

In the area of research involved with buckling of reinforced noncircular cylindrical shells compressed by axial forces in the presence of internal or external pressure some results have been found. The reinforcements considered includes rings and/or stringers placed either inside or outside of the shell. The shell in question is finite in length and, thus, the influence of various types of end supports was investigated. To date, a parametric study has almost been accomplished. The work includes the cases of reinforced shells, with or without lateral pressure, for the types of simple supports known as S2 and S4, the clamped supports of classes Cl and C4, and the cases of reinforced shells with similar edge conditions but without lateral pressure.

Vibration of Oval Rings (4, 5, 6):

As a prelude to studies of the vibration characteristics of noncircular cylindrical shells, research was performed on the free and forced vibration of oval rings vibrating in their plane of curvature. This work determined the response of oval rings of varying eccentricity for several types of applied loading conditions. As anticipated, it was found that the magnitude as well as the frequency of oscillation of the deflection is dependent upon the ring eccentricity. In addition, the dependence of the deflection upon circumferential position was shown to be related to the local radius of curvature. Other results included the determination of the resonance frequencies of the ring as well as the existence of a double resonance "peak" observed via the classic "beat" phenomenon.

Vibrations of Oval Cylindrical Shells (7, 9, 10):

The free vibration of an oval cylindrical shell of finite length was investigated with the aid of the kinematic relations of the first-order shell theory of Sanders (7). These relations are readily reducible to those of the Donnell-type of shell theory via a tracing constant k_s. In-plane inertia was retained throughout the analysis. A method incorporating a type of eigenfunction expansion into Hamilton's principle, suitable for the present class of problems, was developed, and judged to be far more convenient than a parallel Fourier analysis.

In addition to the determination of the natural frequencies and deformation characteristics, attention was focused on the influence of various types of simple support and clamped conditions enforced at the edges of the shell. Two modes of deformation, corresponding to a "higher" and a "lower" frequency were observed to exist for every pair of axial and circumferential wave numbers, depending upon the degree of circumferential symmetry in the deformed pattern.

These studies have also been extended to deal with (but not restricted to) the free vibration problem of unsupported noncircular cylinders (9). The required modification included the enforcement of the edge conditions at the free ends of a finite cylindrical shell which are unsatisfied by the modal functions owing to the presence of the variable curvature terms. Such conditions were posed as additional constraints by way of the well-known formalism of Lagrange multipliers. In addition, it was found that the inclusion of the lowest modes, commonly approximated by the Rayleigh-Love modes, was essential to the completeness of the eigen-function representation. The validity of the proposed procedure of analysis was illustrated by its application to the solution of the free vibration problem of oval cylindrical shells with free ends.

With regard to related experimental studies, because of the complex behavior of the variable curvature cylinder undergoing vibrations, difficulties developed in the procedures for detecting high frequency displacement patterns. The attempt to use a speckle pattern interferometric method to observe displacements in real time and to obtain photographs of the wave shapes in this manner has turned out to be more difficult than was anticipated. A moiré method of the detection and observation is now being adapted, and it is hoped that this technique will serve to accomplish the desired determination of vibration characteristics of oval cylindrical shells.

Reports and Publications (January 1974 - December 1976):

1. Kempner, Joseph, and Chen, Youl-Nan: Buckling and Initial Postbuckling of Oval Cylindrical Shells Under Combined Axial Compression and Bending. Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences, Series E, Vol. 36, No. 11, pp. 171-191, February 1974; also, authors each awarded the I. B. Laskowitz Gold Medal for "Research in Aerospace Engineering Sciences, Support Systems, and Components" by the New York Academy of Sciences, at the Academy's Annual Meeting on December 6, 1973 held at the Museum of Natural History.

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